

## The Constitution Altered.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

As an outcome of the conflict over the Manitoba school question, a provision of the constitution has been virtually annulled. The rights of the minority in Manitoba to separate schools were thought to have been secured by a clause in the Manitoba Act of 1870 defining them in language as free from ambiguity as could be employed. When these rights had been withdrawn by a tyrannical exercise of authority the oppressed Catholics naturally had recourse to the means pointed out by the law for the restoration of their privileges. Under Mr. Laurier the Liberal party in the English-speaking provinces carried on an agitation against "coercion" and in this movement the French Canadian Liberals finally joined. "No coercion" was the watchword of the opposition.

Provincial rights must be maintained; provincial rights implying the independent control of education. The opposition has been successful, a "settlement" has been patched up, and the organs of the Liberal party proclaim the result as a triumph for provincial autonomy. In effect the result has been to annul Section 93 of the British North America Act, in which restrictions are placed upon the jurisdiction of provincial governments in the matter of legislation. The Dominion can no longer interfere in such a matter. The Hon. R. W. Scott, who was the father of the separate school system of Ontario, is apparently pleased with the outcome. His delight may be increased in the future by an application of Manitoba to the province of Ontario. Should the Ontario government choose to abolish separate schools, holding with Mr. Laurier and his party that it is better for the harmony of the community, and for the creation of a national spirit, that children of different creeds should sit beside each other on school benches, it would be useless for the Roman Catholics to invoke the constitution. The constitution on that subject is now a dead letter. The little Province of Manitoba defied parliament. Its administrators ignored the proceedings before the courts. Its newspaper organs used coarsely insulting language, and an occasional member of the legislature, like Mr. Stewart Mulvey, spoke of taking up arms in case of federal interference. If Manitoba can thus override the Dominion how much more easily could Ontario do it. Nor is there anything to prevent the Quebec legislature from proceeding on precisely similar lines. The Protestants in that province complain that they are injured by the supremacy of the church authorities, by unjust discrimination in favor of the Catholics in the laying out of parish boundaries, in taxation and in school accommodation. What would they say if the legislature were to abolish separate schools, tax Protestants for public schools and allow them to pay twice over in case they desired institutions of their own? The factions policy pursued by the Liberals in their struggle for power is likely to produce consequences of which we cannot yet see the end, and which might be in the future detrimental to the peace and welfare of the Dominion.

## The Cattle Trade.

The season's cattle export trade from the St. Lawrence has not been as successful as could have been wished. The number sent out, 100,000 head, was in excess of last year, and among the largest in the history of the trade; but owing to the poor average condition of the animals, and partly to circumstances in England over which people on this side of the Atlantic could have no control, the ruling prices were low, and on many shipments considerable losses were incurred. Nevertheless, the value to the country of the trade is estimated in the neighborhood of \$8,000,000, a sum that, distributed between farmers, railways and steamships, represents a very considerable item in the year's business. The sheep trade also fell off, dropping from 138,728 head to 80,671 head. Lower prices also had to be accepted than ruled last season, so that altogether there was a loss in that respect. The reason for the complaints that live stock men are prone to indulge in, their trade is of so great value to the country, however, and they stick to it so courageously, through bad seasons and in good ones, that it is trusted their ventures next year will have a better ending as well as a better beginning than was the case in 1895. —Montreal Gazette.

MONTREAL ADVISES say that workmen are being discharged from the C. P. R. machine shops.

## LOCAL AND OTHER ITEMS.

YESTERDAY twelve Canadian banks declared dividends amounting to \$1,362,000.

Hon. Mr. STIRTON, Minister of the Interior, was elected by acclamation in Brandon on Friday last.

LONDON ADVISES say that owing to illness Dr. Jameson will likely be released from prison immediately.

We regret to learn that Mr. J. B. McDonald, dry goods merchant of this city has resigned.

ACCORDING to recent reports from Chicago, the destitute in that city are estimated at 15,000 families or 70,000 people.

HONORABLE YOUNG, of Stratford, Connecticut, sent President Cleveland a thirty-two pound turkey for his Thanksgiving dinner.

The hearing of the election petition for West Prince County commences at Alberton on the 8th inst. before the Chief Justice and Judge Fitzgerald.

The steamer Petrol, intended for the Cape route, left Quebec on the 27th ult. for Pictou, where she goes on the ship in preparation for her winter work.

The annual St. Andrew's dinner, under the auspices of the Caledonian Club of Prince Edward Island, took place at the Hotel Dalmeny on Monday evening last.

The Newfoundland papers report that upon the close of St. Lawrence navigation, the Dominion Coal Company will run their steamers between Boston and St. John's, Nfld.

JAMES E. McDONALD, M. L. A. of Cardigan Bridge has sold his brigantine, James E. to parties in St. Pierre, Mig. It is said the price obtained is in the vicinity of \$8,000.

The hearing of the election petition against A. C. McDonald, M. P. for King's, has been set down for the 17th inst. before Mr. Justice Hodgson and Mr. Justice Fitzgerald, at Georgetown.

The London Times, referring to the situation in Cuba says: "There is no prospect of Cuba winning in the struggle. We can't exclude the probability of intervention by the United States."

ALFRED AUSTIN, late barrister, was upset in the Tweed rapids the other day, and was almost drowned. He was alone in the water for a considerable time and, when rescued, was completely exhausted.

OWING to the heavy fog on Friday last, the steamer Northumberland did not reach Point de Chene. She left Summerville at the usual time in the morning; but lay in the straits all night, reaching the Point on Saturday morning.

THE students of St. Dunstan's College had a holiday on Monday, St. Andrew's day, and thoroughly enjoyed the day. In the evening they had an entertainment at which a splendid programme was capitally carried out.

THE Grit press say that certain officials of the Quebec post-office are to be dismissed for allowing copies of the Courier de la Nouvelle-France, a Conservative paper, to pass through the mails free of postage during the June election campaign.

SENATOR MCGILLIVRAY is to be appointed Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, in succession to the late Lieutenant-Governor Fraser. He will be succeeded in the Senate by Mr. King, who resigned his seat in the Commons to make room for Blair.

As the Newfoundland railway is nearing completion Contractor Reid is about taking his departure for the Clyde for the purpose of having built a first class steamer to ply between Port au Basque, the western terminus of the railway, and a near point in Cape Breton.

THE people of St. John, N. B., had the privilege, on Thursday evening last, of hearing the Canadian prima donna, Madame Albani. The opera house was crowded, even to standing room, although most of the seats were \$2.50, and admission was a dollar. Needless to say, the audience was more than delighted.

A WHOLE family perished in the flames at Perry, N. Y., on Friday last, in a tenement house on the Irving Thompson farm, about four miles southeast of the village. The family comprised Luther Greenman, aged 40, Mrs. Greenman, aged 37, Annie and Lottie, aged 3 and 4, and Arthur, 11 months old.

PERMITS to mail service over the Brooklyn Bridge and linking the New York and Brooklyn post offices, and in Philadelphia, connecting the main post office and the depots of the Pennsylvania and Reading railroads, is provided for in a contract signed at the post office department, Washington the other day. Work on the tubes will begin at once.

CHEESE and butter show a substantial decline in value in the Montreal market, and it must come there who sold them cheese when it was worth over 100¢ a feeling of relief when they see it quoted around 60¢ at present. Creamery butter is in full sympathy, having gone as low as 18¢ in some instances, 19¢ being the fall-out quotation.

THE competition between different ports in the United Kingdom for the terminals of the Canadian East Atlantic may be called keen. England, Ireland and Wales have each one port or more putting in a claim. For a Fast Service, with London as the chief objective point, we think that Millport Haven has, so far, made out the best case. —Halifax Herald.

THE people of Bristol are said to be taking active measures for the worthy celebration of the Cabot anniversary. They propose to spend some \$5,000 on a memorial. The Marquis of Lorne has been asked to accept the Chairmanship of the Bristol committee, an invitation said to have been prompted by a recognition of Canada's interest in the Cabot celebration and Lord Lorne's connection with Canada.

THE Red House Dairymaking Company concluded a very satisfactory season's business of cheese manufacturing on Saturday evening by distributing amongst their patrons over thirteen hundred dollars. The patrons received 75 cents per 100 lbs. for their September and October milk and the shareholders a handsome dividend on their stock. The company is now manufacturing a very superior quality of butter averaging about 300 lbs each day's turning. —Ex.

## NEWS OF THE WEEK.

A man supposed to be Nicholas Cody, a native of New Brunswick, was drowned on Sunday night off the Leyden line docks at East Boston.

Cody was employed by the Eastern dredging company.

A big meeting will be held in Montreal this evening when the first gun of the anti-school settlement campaign will be fired. The rally will be held under the auspices of the Club Carlier and the chief speakers will be Sir A. P. Caron, Messrs Bergeron, Monk, Dupont, M. P. Hon. Jos. Royal and others. Similar meetings will be held all over the Province.

The market in England has developed to new features. The wheat market, but is more cheerful since news was received of the break in the Indian drought. The market seems to have plenty of orders, but at unworkable limits, which is trying to waters and undoubtedly they must show short time working. Yarns continue in better shape relatively, but spinners in many directions would gladly see more business.

Winnipeg advises of the 27th say: The blizzard last night extended over most of the Northwest, and was one of the severest storms experienced by the country in many years. The gale was furious last night, but this morning it moderated, and this evening is quite spent out. Trains on all the railroads were considerably delayed, but the tracks are now clear, and everything will soon be straightened out. Fortunately, throughout the storm the temperature was quite mild, and consequently there was no fatalities, and inconvenience was the worst of the result.

The colonial office, London, has sent a communication to the government stating that the republic of Guatemala has modified its tariff in several articles of which Canada is able to do a good trade. From the 1st of June 30th, during the time of holding the Central American exhibition, a large number of commodities are placed on the free list, but must be imported through the port of Guaymas, and consequently there was no fatalities, and inconvenience was the worst of the result.

According to recent San Francisco advises the North China Daily News announces that news has been received from Peking that it is the intention of the emperor to appoint Li Hung Chang to the post of re-organizer of the navy and to build within five years time six large battleships, twelve first-class armored cruisers and twenty second and third-class fast cruisers. Further, that Li was greatly struck with the torpedo boats he saw in England, and the result will be that the government will be advised to buy a regular flotilla of these fast boats for the new Chinese navy. It is further asserted that Li received promises from bankers in England to provide their money in return for railway concessions.

Manager John Black, of the Bank of Nova Scotia, started last Thursday morning for St. Andrew's, N. B., to attend to the business of the bank by his bank on one day of each week. At the lower steamboat wharf in Calais he had to descend a flight of slippery stairs in order to reach the vessel, and while doing so he slipped and lost his head of a valise containing over one thousand dollars in cash and a number of notes, drafts and acceptances. It could not be recovered, and the trip to St. Andrew's was abandoned. The valise was recovered, but the money was not. The valise was found by a diver who was employed. He arrived on Saturday, but his services were not needed, for the valise was found that morning by Wm. Grant, mate of the Rose Starfish. It had struck the steamer and rebounded inside of the outer logs of the wharf.

In the exchequer court at Ottawa on Friday last the Queen Vs. St. Louis came up. R. B. Osler, Q. C., Mr. Hogg, Q. C., and Solicitor General Fitzpatrick appeared for the crown, and Hon. A. C. Geoffrion and Mr. Emery for St. Louis. The crown sued for \$143,000, which was alleged to be overpaid in connection with the Curran bridge contract. St. Louis has already sued for \$63,000, which was due him on the contract, and recovered the amount by a judgment of the exchequer court. Mr. Geoffrion, for St. Louis, now holds that under the law of Quebec, which the case must be tried under, the crown cannot sue the amount by a judgment of the exchequer court. From the remarks of Justice Burridge it looked as if the court was likely to decide in that way. Mr. Osler, however, contended that the case did not come under the Quebec law, as it was an action by a judgment of the exchequer court, and that the crown there was no estoppel against the crown as between subjects and subjects.

In the lower house of the Hungarian diet on the 25th ult., the presiding officer referred briefly to the millennial celebrations and expressed the loyalty of the house to the crown. Baron Barffy, the premier, announced that Emperor Francis Joseph would formally open the diet on Thursday next at the palace, where the Emperor, King, and his family would be present. He stated that he and his friends could not attend the ceremony, adding that the king ought to open the diet in the parliament house, and not in the palace, over which the black and yellow flag of Austria waved. In reply Baron Barffy said there was no warrant for these objections, as no law obliged the king to open the diet in the parliament house, and that the Emperor, King, and his family would be present. He stated that he and his friends could not attend the ceremony, adding that the king ought to open the diet in the parliament house, and not in the palace, over which the black and yellow flag of Austria waved. 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